GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:99
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
LINKING OF VILLAGES THROUGH SATELLITE
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Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to provide links to various Panchayats in the States through the GramSat;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the villages identified for this purpose, State -wise;

(c) the funds earmarked for each village, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the villages in the States are likely to be linked through GramSat?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Space initiated Experimental Gramsat Programme in 1998 to facilitate training of panchayat level functionaries and to promote developmental activities mostly in remote areas. As a part of Gramsat programme, Satcom networks have been established at District/Block/Panchayat level as below:-

State	No. of Locations Districts/Blocks	Panchayats
Madhya Pradesh	518	1012
Orrisa	350	1166
Karnataka	176	
Gujarat	550	250
Rajasthan	2	17
West Bengal	320	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	9	

Satcom networks were not set up at village level under Gramsat programme. However, villages coming under the above mentioned Panchayats will get benefited by these facilities.

The programmes were tailored to meet the requirements of individual States.

(c) Department of Space has not earmarked village-wise funds for Gramsat programme.

(d) Based on the experience of GRAMSAT TDCC, tele-medicine, tele-education and remote sensing applications, ISRO has established Village Resource Centres (VRC). VRCs provide integrated services comprising of tele-education, tele-medicine, natural resources information and skill development. At present 291 VRCs have been established in States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Puducherry. These centres are established based on the requirement and interest shown by various State and Central Government departments/institutions/NGOs etc.